

REMARKS

The final Office Action of October 17, 2006, and the Advisory Action of January 18, 2007, have been received and reviewed.

Claims 1-63 are currently pending and under consideration in the above-referenced application. Each of claims 1-11, 20-31, 33-37, 40, 42-45, 57, 58, 61, and 63 has been rejected. Claims 12-19, 32, 38, 39, 41, 46-56, 59, 60, and 62 are each drawn to allowable subject matter.

It is proposed that new claims 64-79 be added.

It is also proposed that claims 3, 12, and 59 be canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Reconsideration of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The indication that claims 12-19, 32, 38, 39, 41, 46-56, 59, 60, and 62 is gratefully acknowledged.

It is proposed that all of the limitations of claim 12 be incorporated into independent claim 1, that new independent claims 64, 65, 67, 68, 71, and 72 be added to recite all of the limitations of claims 32, 38, 41, 46, 49, and 50, respectively, that all of the limitations of claim 59 be incorporated into independent claim 57, and that new claim 79 be added to recite all of the limitations of claim 62.

It is also proposed that new claim 66, which depends from new independent claim 65, be added. New claim 66 recites the same subject matter as allowable claim 39.

Proposed new claims 69 and 70, which depend from new independent claim 68, recites the same subject matter as that to which allowable claims 47 and 48 are respectively drawn.

It is further proposed that new claims 73-78 be added. New claims 73-78 depend directly or indirectly from new independent claim 72, and are directed to the same subject matter as that recited in allowable claims 51-56, respectively.

Entry of Amendments

Entry of the amendments that have been proposed herein is respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that the proposed amendments do not introduce new matter, that their

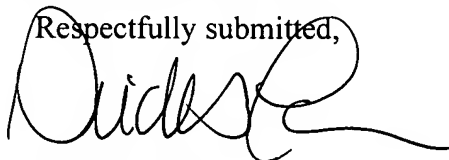
entry would not necessitate an additional search, and that their entry would remove all issues that remain for purposes of appeal.

In the event that the proposed amendments are not entered, it is respectfully requested that they be entered upon the filing of a Notice of Appeal in the above-referenced application.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that each of claims 1-70 is allowable. An early notice of the allowability of each of these claims is respectfully solicited, as is an indication that the above-referenced application has been passed for issuance. If any issues preventing allowance of the above-referenced application remain which might be resolved by way of a telephone conference, the Office is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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